



City of Holtville

Espere nuestro
proximo boletin en
español y ingles.



News from City Hall

Spring 2006

City Manager's Message

Volume 1, Issue 2

Holtville is a city rich in tradition and history. Just this last month we wrapped up our traditional Carrot Festival and Rib Cook-Off, which are two fantastic events that define our community and bring in hundreds of visitors and guests each year. The Viking boys' soccer team made history as the first soccer team from Holtville to play in a CIF Championship Soccer game. Let's hope this will become a winning tradition for the Holtville Vikings!

Holtville has a fine tradition of community service. Thanks to the outstanding work by City employees and Families United for Holtville Now (FUHN), a community service group, we were able to complete the new playground equipment project at Holt Park. The City, Chamber of Commerce, and the FUHN group celebrated by organizing a grand opening picnic in the park to dedicate the equipment to the kids of Holtville.

The Holtville Athletic Club (HAC) donated the proceeds from their homemade ice cream sales back to the City for a special park improvement project. Mayor Jerry Brittsan and Council Member Colleen Ludwig are heading up the project to repair and if necessary replicate the historic lights in Holt Park. The historic lights are a valuable part of our community's history and the monetary donation from the HAC will help kick start the project. Anyone wishing to donate their time or treasures to the Historic Light Preservation Project can call City Hall for more details.

Holtville's Steve Clark showed his community spirit when he volunteered his time and talents to work with City staff to remodel the Civic Center kitchen. Steve spent several hours installing floor covering, cabinets, counter tops and appliances. The work was completed just in time for the Carrot Festival Cook-Off activities, to the delight of participants and event organizers.

Holtville is making history as our Wetlands Project is scheduled to start construction by the end of the year. The project was made possible with grant funds secured from the Federal Bureau of Reclamation. The Wetland Project will clean the water in the Alamo River and provide recreational fishing and a walking path around the project perimeter. In addition, new housing developments are being discussed, planned, and constructed on all corners of the City, which is something Holtville hasn't experienced in several decades. Our newest residential development project has just been completed and we are pleased to report that the Orchard View apartment complex opened this month. Over the past few months, City Council has taken actions that will improve city services to our residents. Council approved a contract to replace and install new fire hydrants and commercial water meters throughout the community. With future development and economic opportunities in mind, the City hired grant consultants to identify, write, and administer grants for the City's housing element and economic development plans and projects. We recently completed a rehabilitation project on our Wastewater Treatment Plant, and initiated several community planning studies including the City's Service Area, Economic Development, and Utilities Master Plans. These are just some of the ways Council responds to community needs and actively promotes public policy for the betterment of our community. As City Manager for my hometown, I am proud to be a part of the outstanding team of dedicated professionals employed by the City of Holtville. With Council's guidance, city employees and managers are working toward expanding our community's economic opportunities while preserving our history and tradition as one of the finest towns of America. We hope to provide you with updates on the activities and projects in Holtville with periodic newsletters and bill inserts. If you have any suggestions or questions, please give me a call at 356-4574. Best Regards,

Laura Fischer

City Council

The City Council meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 6:00 p.m. (Closed session is at 5:30).
Mayor: Jerry Brittsan

Mayor Pro-Tem: Doug Byram

Councilmembers:

Colleen Ludwig, Patrick Galliher, Victor Gillespie

The Planning Commission meets on the 3rd Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

Chairman: Carrie Anderson Vice Chairman: VACANT

Commissioners: Dee Bradshaw, Sherry Poore, Bob Fischer



Fire Department News

The fire department received notice in February of an AFG Fire Prevention & Safety grant award in the amount of \$19,284. The grant will enable the department to purchase items to expand our current fire prevention program into a more interactive fire prevention program that includes disaster awareness and injury prevention.

The new air compressor trailer is scheduled for delivery in April. This unit will enable the fire department to re-fill its SCBA cylinders after incidents and training. The department is also awaiting the delivery of 13 new complete SCBA units, 26 SCBA masks, and 20 SCBA radio communications devices. The City will be paying less than \$7,000 for all of this because of a \$127,110 Assistance to Firefighters

Grant (AFG) awarded to the fire department late last year.

Community Emergency Response Team: The fire department is trying to find individuals who are interested in learning about disaster preparedness, basic first aid, basic fire safety, etc. Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is a training program that prepares individuals to help themselves, their family, and neighbors in the event of a disaster. During a disaster, emergency service personnel may not be able to reach everyone right away. This is especially true here in Holtville, where we already have limited resources. Individuals who are CERT trained will have the skills to help themselves, their family, and commu-

nity by assisting emergency responders save lives and protect property. In the event of a major earthquake, which is a matter of "when" and not "if", we (as a community and fire department) are expected to take care of ourselves for at least 72 hours (3 days). Call the fire department at 356-2673 if you are interested in this great opportunity to help yourself, your family, and your community.

The City and County fire departments are extending their fire protection agreement for the unincorporated areas outside of Holtville for another three years (through 12/31/08).

Open House on 02/18/06 went very well. Many vendors from Holtville and throughout the Imperial Valley contributed to make the event successful.

The Burn Institute provided a puppet show and home fire safety props, the American Red Cross provided disaster preparedness information for residents, and Gold Cross Ambulance participated in a vehicle extrication demonstration. The Holtville Police Department and Fire Protection Plus also participated.



Jesus Guzman was hired by the City of Holtville as a full-time firefighter in July of 2005. Previously, he worked for Imperial County Fire Department as a reserve firefighter and reserve engineer for five years. Jesus has accepted increasing responsibility since being hired by the City. In January of 2006 he was assigned department Assistant Training Officer. Jesus also attended medical training to upgrade his EMT status to Advanced EMT, which enables him to establish intravenous lines and administer certain life-saving medications. Recently, he has teamed with Assistant Chief Alex Silva in establishing a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) in the City of Holtville. That project is in its infancy. He is also currently attending fire command training at IVC.

Jesus Guzman, Holtville Firefighter of the Year



Police Department News

The Holtville Police Department has installed a new Anonymous Tip Crime Hotline. To report criminal activity, suspects, or persons involved in any type of crime you may call **598-4424**, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, and leave information in English or Spanish.

The Police Department is seeking volunteers to assist with the Police Athletic League (PAL) Program. Anyone interested in becoming a Program Director or involved in any way please call the Police Department at 356-2991.

Don't forget to become involved in Neighborhood Watch. One of the best ways to keep our Community Crime Free!!!! Unite with your neighbors to create a safer environment for ourselves and our children.

Lets all make a New Year's Resolution to work together to reduce crime and the fear of crime.

As you can see, graffiti has been removed from the fences and walls throughout the City. The Police Department is currently beginning a project to

remove graffiti from the alleys. If any new graffiti occurs, please report it immediately to the Police Department. Also, for your information, there are several items on the market that can be used to remove graffiti from surfaces. The best item will depend on the surface to be cleaned. Painting is always one of the best, and easiest, ways to cover graffiti. If you have a recently painted surface, write down the color of the paint. That way, if needed, a perfect match can be made. If you know the color of paint that you have on a surface, and you have graffiti please let the Police



Police Department News, continued

Department know. We will attempt to get that color matched.

Attention Pet Bird Owners;

The Holtville Police Department has a fact sheet concerning Avian Influenza, in English and Spanish. A DVD titled, "Backyard Biosecurity, Practices to Keep Your Birds Healthy," is also available. Stop by the Police Department for this free information, and pick up a 2006 Calendar from the Avian Health Group with additional tips.

Public Works News

Installation of the new playground equipment is complete. We were pleased that the new playground equipment was open for use by the beginning of the school holiday break. It is heartwarming to see local children enjoying their new facilities. At times they resembled ants crawling all over an anthill and the expressions and shouts of joy are a delight to behold. The covered picnic areas are

being used and will soon have new barbeques to enhance their use. Installation of lighting is also being planned and should be coming soon.

The City of Holtville would like to thank all those who have volunteered their time to bring this project to life. There is still much to do but the citizens of Holtville have demonstrated what can be done if we all work to-

gether. Want to make a change in your community? Volunteer to help.



Welcome



Laura Fischer, City Manager

Several changes can be seen in and around City Hall since our last newsletter was issued. The City hired a new Manager and appointed a new Mayor. Jerry Brittsan a long time Holtville resident, is our Mayor and will serve a one-year term with Doug Byram standing in line as Mayor Pro-Tem. In addition to the change in Council management, Laura Fischer was hired as City Manager for Holtville in December, and has the distinction of being the first Holtville native to serve as City Manager. Laura graduated from Holtville High School in 1974. She attended IVC and National University before earning a Master's of Business Administration from San Diego State University in 2002. Laura and her husband Bob live in Holtville along with several of their children and extended family.



Jesse Sanchez, Deputy City Clerk

Jesse Sanchez graduated from Southwest High School in 2001 and joined the United States Marine Corps where he served for four years. He is currently attending SDSU Imperial Valley Campus majoring in Public Administration.



Jerry M. Brittsan, City Mayor

Jerry Brittsan has been a resident of Holtville for over 50 years. He is a Holtville High School graduate and a Navy veteran.

"It is my privilege to work with a dedicated team. The future of the city is looking bright." Brittsan





City Hall Directory	
City Manager—356-4574	
Presidente Municipal	
Finance Dept.—356-4685	
Departamento de Finanzas	
City Clerk— 356-4170	
Secretario Municipal	
Personnel—356-3013	
Departamento de Personal	
Public Works—356-2632	
Obras Publicas	
Fire Dept.—356-2673	
Departamento de Bomberos	
Police Dept.—356-2991	
Departamento de Policia	
Water Dept.—356-2912	
Departamento de Agua	
After Hours Water	
Emergency—356-2991	

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121 W. Fifth Street
Holtville, CA 92250

Recycling Information



Benefits of Buying Recycled:

Purchasing **recycled-content products** (RCP) has many benefits. Below is a brief listing and a short explanation of just some of the advantages buying recycled offers.

Saves Money: such as janitorial paper products, corrugated packaging, padded mailers, latex paint, compost, mulch, writing tablets, remanufactured toner cartridges, and many others, cost less than or the same as their non-recycled counterparts.

Conserve Landfill Space: More than 35 million people live in California. More people result in more solid waste. More solid waste, combined with less landfill capacity, increases the need to find alternatives to landfilling or incinerating solid waste.

Attain RCP Procurement Goals: Each State agency and many local governments are required by law to buy RCPs in sufficient quantities to attain their specified procurement goals. Purchasing RCPs exhibits your support of these State laws and documents your efforts to attain compliance with them.

